

**U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to hold workshop
on the enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights
December 2 – 3, 2004**

On December 2 – 3, 2004, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, will conduct a “Judicial and Prosecutorial Workshop on Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights” in Tunis, Tunisia. Around 30 Tunisian government officials, lawyers, and judges will take part in this workshop. Both Tunisian and American experts will lead the workshop, sharing their specific insight and experiences in handling the issue of intellectual property rights. This program is funded by the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), which seeks to work with governments and people in the Arab world to expand economic, political and educational opportunity for all people of the region.

This is the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office’s (USPTO) first such program in Tunisia. It will focus on building the capacity of Tunisian prosecutors and judges to effectively present and adjudicate cases involving intellectual property rights (IPR). The USPTO intends to offer follow-up programs in the near future, focusing on the use of IPR by small and medium-sized enterprises and on the effective administration of IPR by the Tunisian government.

Under MEPI's economic pillar, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is offering a series of capacity building programs throughout the region in the field of intellectual property rights (IPR). These programs support and encourage the effective development, use and enforcement of IPR.